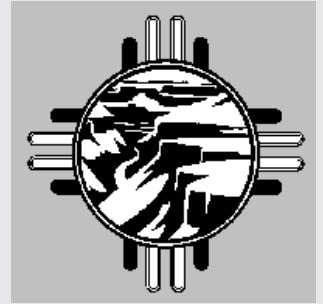


# UPLIFT & EROSION

*The newsletter of the Grand Canyon National Park  
General Management Plan Implementation Team*



JUNE 2000

## THE NEW AND IMPROVED DESERT VIEW

At times considered one of the oft forgotten stepchildren of the mighty South Rim (or so the complaint to management goes), Desert View is about to get some attention when it comes to implementing the 1995 General Management Plan (GMP).

You might recall that a relocated and larger parking lot, reconfigured park entrance road, new entrance station, reconstructed snack and gift shops, new restrooms, and expanded employee housing were all part of the GMP for Desert View. Currently, the road realignment and parking lot are being designed. Because of the vagaries of Federal funding, each must be its own project. The road realignment will be funded in fiscal year 2002, but Grand Canyon still has to compete for the parking lot funding. We have requested approval for the entrance station project from entrance fee revenues and are awaiting word. In a perfect world, these three projects will all happen in a logical order - we are keeping our fingers crossed.

In order to place the new parking lot, some additional employee housing is needed to replace trailer spaces currently located where the parking lot is planned. Working together with Amfac, the current hospitality concessioner, we anticipate starting design of the employee housing later this year. The new housing will be mostly for Amfac's employees.

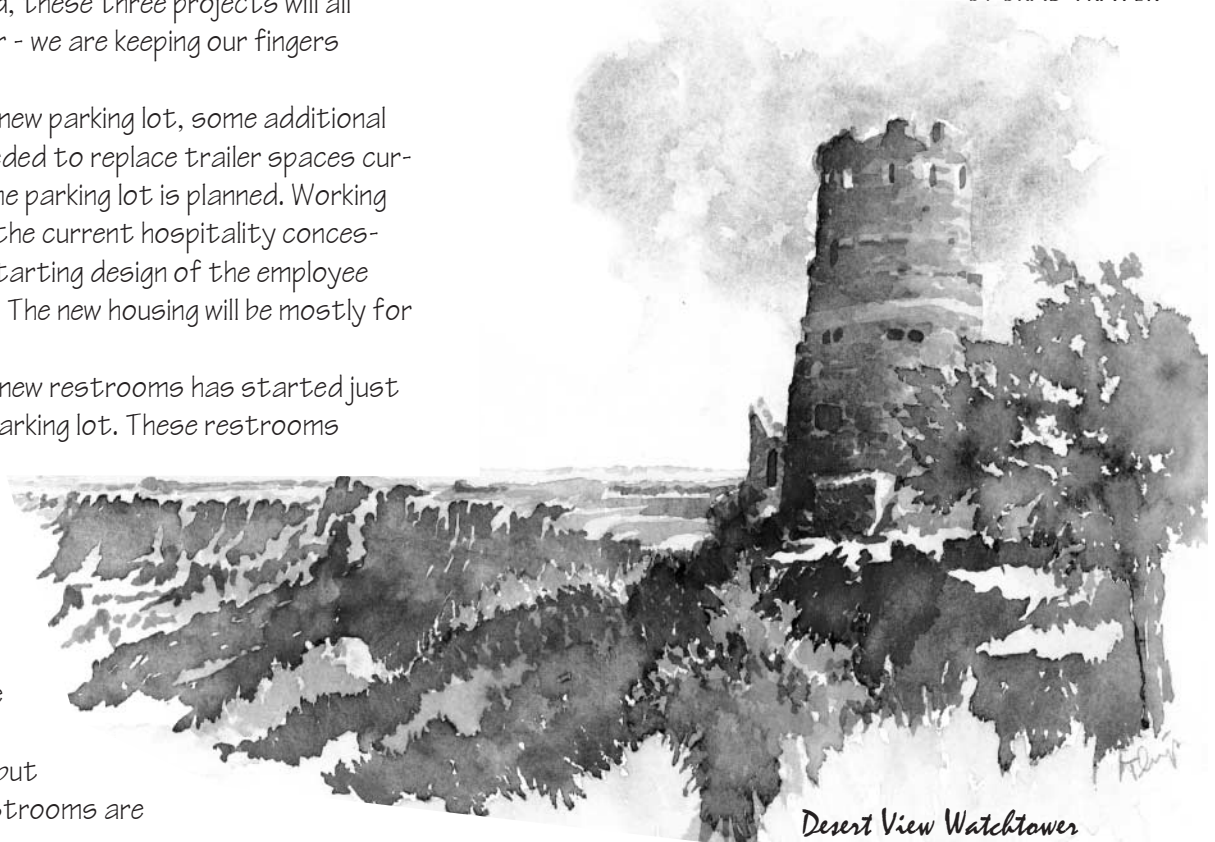
Construction of the new restrooms has started just south of the existing parking lot. These restrooms will be welcome additions - Desert View is the only place in the 50 miles between Grand Canyon Village and Cameron with restrooms and the one at Desert View now is not just tired-looking, but exhausted. The new restrooms are

being built with funding from the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program.

In the next hospitality concession contract (the contract following the one Amfac has now), we expect to be able to remove the existing Desert View Trading Post and replace it with a facility of better design, located farther back from the rim than the current building. Construction is very tentatively scheduled for 2004.

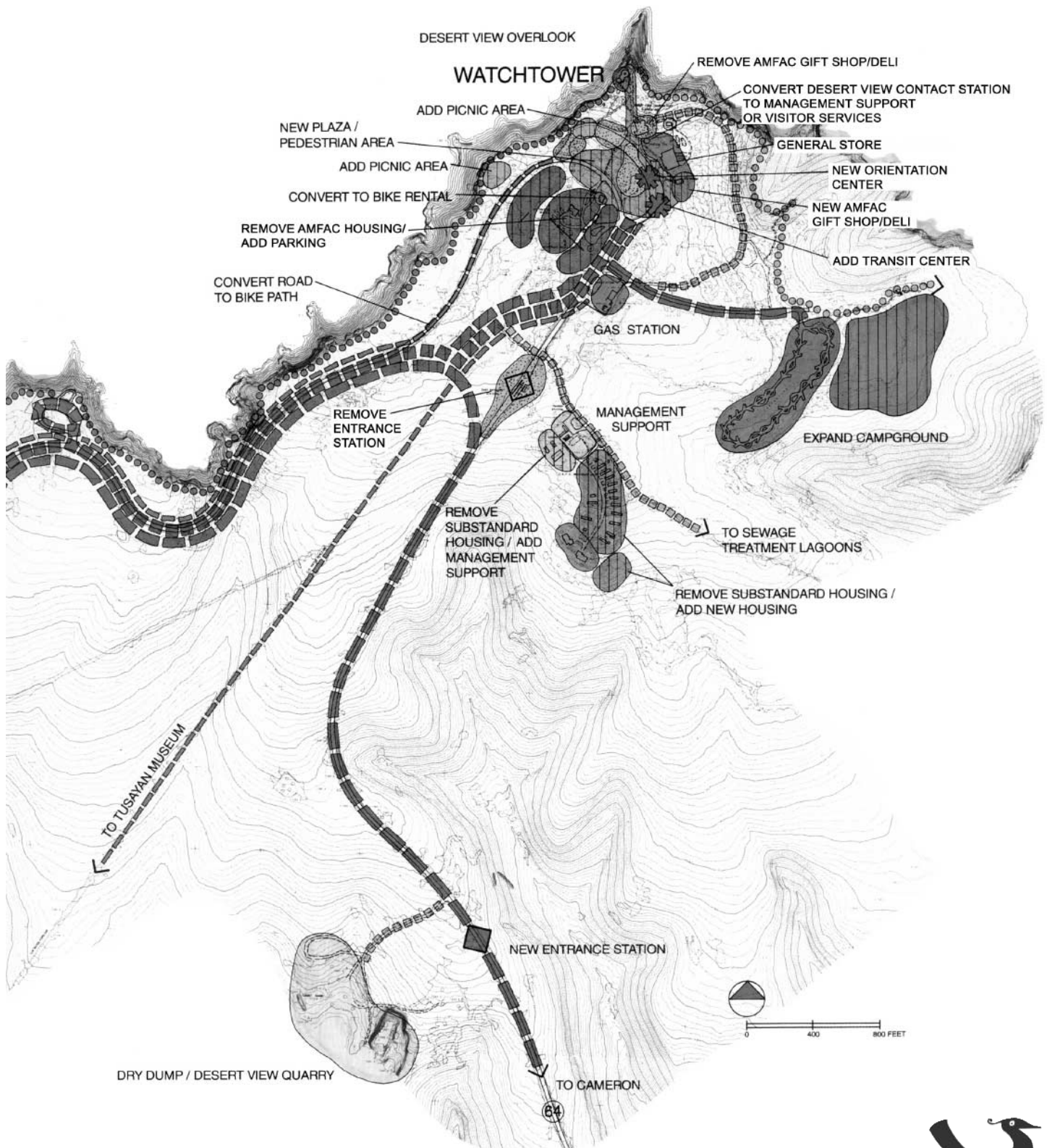
Undoubtedly by the time all is done everyone at Desert View will be looking forward to the tranquility of once again being a forgotten stepchild.

BY BRAD TRAVER



*Desert View Watchtower*

## GMP MAP OF DESERT VIEW



Something to think about...

"The money we spend for effective conservation work is a sound investment in better living for ourselves and our children. We will not be dismayed by those who say the cost of such investments is too great. The cost of not making them would be far greater."

Harry S. Truman



## PRIVATIZED EMPLOYEE HOUSING

We continue to listen to any and every new idea that comes our way, particularly when it concerns employee housing. National Park Service (NPS) policy prohibits the use of park entrance fees to build housing, and housing projects don't compete well in the revamped NPS prioritization process for construction funds. A March 2000 independent report commissioned by the NPS at the request of Congress showed a housing deficit of 211 housing units for NPS employees at Grand Canyon by 2002. Unfortunately this same report offered no advice on how to pay for the needed additional housing.

By keeping our ears open and following any promising lead, we found a non-profit housing developer, Community Services of Arizona (CSA), interested in building housing and renting it to our employees. The catch has always been that the below-market rents the NPS is permitted to charge do not cover the above-market costs of building in a remote location like Grand Canyon. CSA knew of a Department of Commerce program offering grants for this type of situation, up to \$1 million. However, by our back of the

envelope calculations, we would still be short.

The Grand Canyon National Park Foundation then stepped up and offered to raise the money needed to make the project work. With the developer's financing, the state's grant, and the Foundation's philanthropic efforts, we may yet pull this project off.

The project itself is 60 apartment units in 10 six-plex buildings (for a total of 28 two-bedroom and 32 one-bedroom units). It will be located at the current YACC Camp site, off of Albright Avenue and across from the lower end of the Albright Training Center. Taliesen Architects, a subsidiary of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, is designing the apartment units. The design continues to be a challenge - to create a pleasant living environment on a small site with a limited budget - but all projects are a challenge of one sort or another.

If we are able to make this project happen, it will be, with the exception of the transit project, the

most complicated arrangement we've made to implement a piece of the 1995 General Management Plan. But it's also the foundation upon which good service grows. If we can't do a better job of housing our employees, we put in jeopardy our ability to realize any other part of our vision.



BY BRAD TRAVER

## IT IS TIME TO UPDATE THE UPLIFT & EROSION MAIL LIST.

Periodically we go through the Uplift & Erosion mail list and make sure that everyone receiving this newsletter does indeed actually want to receive it. Sometimes individuals are added to our list by mistake. So, if you wish to continue receiving a paper copy of this newsletter in the mail you must do **one** of the following:

- 1 Cut out this corner of the newsletter and mail it back to us at:  
GMP I-Team, U&E  
Grand Canyon National Park  
823 N San Francisco Ste A  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001-3265

- 2 Send an email message to:  
Gigi\_Wright@nps.gov  
be sure to include your name and mailing address in the message.

***If we do not receive a response from you, your name will be removed from the Uplift & Erosion mail list.***

This newsletter is, and will continue to be, posted on the Internet at <<http://www.nps.gov/grca/newsltr/>>, where it is available both as web pages and as an Adobe Acrobat document viewable with Adobe Reader. This newsletter can also be sent to you via email if you prefer.



## PROJECT UPDATES



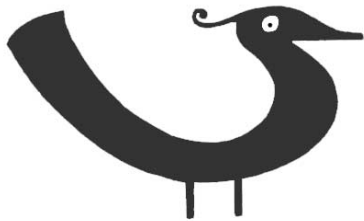
The DRAFT Prospectus for the Grand Canyon Bus & Light Rail Transit System Concession Contract was sent to the pre-qualified bidders for their comments on June 23rd. Design of the transit stations will continue through August for inclusion in the FINAL prospectus, expected to be sent out this September (2000).



The State of Arizona is reviewing our design of the first segment of the South Rim Greenway project - from Yavapai Point to the westernmost overlook on Desert View Drive. Archeologists are also on-site removing and documenting cultural resources which otherwise would be damaged by construction. We still hope to begin construction before summer's end.



The final approvals have been received and the Finding of No Significant Impact signed so we will begin pre-qualifying bidders for the NPS Maintenance/Warehouse project very soon. Construction is expected to begin next spring (2001).



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